



Indiana Historical Bureau

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NEWS

For Immediate Release

December 15, 2008

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“Alexander McClure” State Historical Marker Will Be Dedicated in Seymour

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for Friday, December 19, 2008. The state historical marker commemorating Alexander McClure, a fugitive slave, will be dedicated at the Jackson County Visitor Center, located at 100 North Broadway, Seymour. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “Alexander McClure”:

On April 15, 1860 at the Seymour railroad depot, a shipping box was damaged while being transferred; McClure was discovered inside and immediately identified himself as a fugitive slave from Nashville, Tennessee. The box had been shipped from Nashville, addressed to Levi Coffin in Cincinnati, who strongly denied any knowledge of the escape plan. Adams Express Company agents took McClure to Louisville jail, where his owner claimed him, then took him to Nashville; company paid all expenses for McClure’s return to Nashville. McClure’s testimony helped convict two black men accused of aiding him. Many sensationalized stories about the attempted escape appeared in the various city newspapers.

The public is invited to attend this dedication ceremony for a state historical marker that commemorates Underground Railroad activity in the State of Indiana. This marker serves as a reminder that not everybody who tried to escape slavery was successful.

State historical markers commemorate significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These markers help communities throughout the state promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. For more than 90 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1947, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. There are approximately 500 of these markers across the state.

For a digital version of this release and further information about this marker, the state Historical Marker Program, and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau’s website at www.IN.gov/history or call 317-232-2537.

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